

devoted husband, dutiful son, loving father, great friend, and staunch advocate of the Chamorro people. He will be greatly missed. Adios, Ron.

WALTER G. MORRISON, AN  
AMERICAN HERO

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the terrible tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001, it is necessary that we honor and recognize the men and women who risk their lives on a daily basis to ensure the safety of others—our Nation's fire and emergency services personnel. It is also necessary to pause, reflect, and honor the over 300 fire service personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of public safety on the 11th. Remembering the events that transpired on the 11th conjure up horrific images, but also images that inspire—images of true dedication to others, devotion to duty and bonafide heroism. It also triggers memories of a fire-service veteran and true hero from my congressional district—Walter G. Morrison—an individual who would have, without equivocation, been nowhere other than at ground "0" assisting victims on that fateful day. Walter died on July 18, 1981, in the line of duty—selflessly attempting to help others. A fire and civil defense coordinator in Otsego County, Walter also served as Chief of the Fly Creek Fire Department, a board member of the Central New York Firemen's Association, and Secretary of the New York State Fire Service Council. Walter exemplified the fire service and all it stands for. He was 46. Today, it is fitting that he, along with four of his fellow firefighters from the great state of New York, and numerous others from around the nation, have their names permanently etched upon the National Fallen Firefighters monument in Emmitsburg, Maryland for all to see and remember. It is our duty—our responsibility to never forget that it is people much like Walter—a neighbor; a colleague; an friend; a father; a son; a brother; a mother; willingly placing themselves in danger for you—for all of us.

DISPLACED WORKERS' RELIEF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, Congress approved the Air Transportation Stabilization Act to provide \$15 billion to help stabilize our nation's airlines, save jobs and moderate the negative economic impact of the September 11 attack. Helping our ailing aviation industry was important; helping the workers affected by the economic impact of this national tragedy is equally as important.

Over 100,000 people who worked in the airline industry have become unemployed as a

result of the terrorist attacks, and even more are expected to lose their jobs in the future. If Congress does not act quickly, these men and women will be unable to pay for the necessities of life, such as food and rent. These workers need help now.

I encourage the leadership to work with Democrats, who have a plan to provide retraining programs, health insurance, and unemployment benefits to displaced workers and their families. This proposal will give critically needed assistance now, while providing workers with the tools necessary to find new employment and rebuild long term economic security for themselves and their families.

I supported the Air Transportation Stabilization Act not only because it was needed to help stabilize the airline industry and our economy, but also because congressional leaders committed to quickly bring forth legislation to address the needs of displaced workers, who deserve the same attention and quick action Congress gave to the aviation industry. The time has come to make good on that promise.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to provide \$25 million for child nutrition programs. These programs provide funding for our nation's schools to purchase commodities for their National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

The National School Lunch Program serves more than 27 million children every day, slightly over half to children who live at or near the poverty level in this country. More than 85% of the 7 million breakfast served in schools each day go to poor children. For these children, our federal school meal programs are their most secure link to good nutrition. These commodity food programs also allow school districts to offset the costs of lunches for children who do not participate in the program. In essence, these programs benefit the child receiving the free or reduced cost meal as well as the child who pays full price.

Research has confirmed a link between nutrition and children's cognitive development, cognitive performance, and ability to concentrate. Preschool and school age children need to receive proper and adequate nutrition. Studies also show that those nutritional programs have contributed positively to scores on test of basic skills, reduced tardiness and absenteeism.

Also clear is the link between our federal nutrition programs and our agricultural communities. The United States began providing agricultural commodities to our schools more than a decade before we started grants in aid to schools to provide meals, and three dec-

ades before we recognized the special needs of our poorest children through the free and reduced price meal subsidies. In 1994, Congress amended the National Lunch Act to require that at least 12% of all federal support for schools meals must be in the form in commodities. However, in 1998 the Congress again amended the National School Lunch Act to count bonus commodities, food products purchased under separate authorizations and for a very different purpose, to meet the 12% statutory requirement. While some thought this was merely an accounting change, the effect was a real cut in support for our school lunch program. The commodities, which will not be purchased under the entitlement authorization, are the ones best suited to meet the menu and nutritional requirements of our school meal programs. The impact of the change was not felt last year or this because Congress yet again passed another statute that correct the error, but only for 2000 and 2001. But our schools will lose more than \$55 million dollars in entitlement commodities in 2002 unless we act to correct the problem. Over the next eight years, this cut will exceed \$440 million. That is a very real and significant cut to our school programs. Make no mistake, this is a school lunch budget cut—this is more than \$55 million per year that schools will not receive. It is also a \$440 million cut in the amount of agricultural commodities purchased by USDA.

I have spoken with several of my colleagues and they share my interest in this matter. After all, this money is used by USDA to purchase agricultural commodities, and these purchases have a significant impact on producer incomes. The magnitude of this cut is even more dramatic when you consider the amount of food that it represents. This cut means that USDA will reduce its overall purchases by 660 million pounds.

One of the best ways we can move forward as a society is to meet our obligations to our children. The Federal Government must follow through on its commitment to work in partnership with states, schools, and the agricultural community to administer a major program designed to improve children's diets and, in turn their overall health and well being. We can be proud that these school meal programs promote the well being of some of our Nation's most vulnerable children by providing them with the nourishment they need to develop healthy bodies and sound minds. Nutritious meals help students reach their full potential by keeping them alert and attentive in the classroom. As both common sense and extensive scientific research confirm, a hungry child cannot focus on schoolwork as well as one who has been fed a nutritious meal.

Mr. Chairman, recognizing the many needs being addressed in this bill, I will withdraw the amendment, but would like to draw attention to how we, the representatives of our preschool and school age children across America, have neglected them. And in the spirit of National School Lunch Week, which begins the second week of October every year, I would also like to express my interest in working together with members of both the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and the Workforce to explore this issue and seek ways to support our nation's